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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 /082 W
----------123471 130138Z /75
R 121445Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6451
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0938

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECIN, ETRD, TZ,RW, BY, CG, MZ, ZA
SUBJECT: TANZANIAN INITIATIVE FOR NEW EAST AFRICAN GROUPING

1. BASED ON A NUMBER OF LOCAL SOURCES, IT SEEMS THAT TANZANIAN VICE PRESIDENT JUMBE'S JUST CONCLUDED TWO DAY VISIT TO BURUNDI (WHERE HE WAS GREETED WITH FANFARE NORMALLY RESERVED FOR A CHIEF OF STATE) WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN DRAWING BURUNDI CLOSER TO TANZANIA'S ORBIT.

2. JUMBE APPARENTLY BROACHED TO BURUNDIANS, AS HE HAD TO RWANDANS A FEW DAYS EARLIER, THE IDEA OF A FIVE NATION ECONOMIC GROUPING, TO INCLUDE THOSE THREE STATES, PLUS ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE. JUMBE INDICATED THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY PRESENTED TO THE LATTER TWO STATES. HOWEVER, HE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT IT WOULDBE TO BURUNDI'S ADVANTAGE TO
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CLOSER TIES WITH STATE THROUGH WHICH GREAT BULK OF BURUNDI'S EXPORTS AND IMPORTS PASS. TO DRIVE POINT HOME, TANZANIAN EXPERTS CAME TO BURUNDI WEEK EARLIER TO ACTIVATE LONG PROMISED BILATERAL COMMISSION ON TRANSPORT PROBLEMS, AND JUMBE'S DELEGATION STRESSED GENUINE PRIORITY THAT TANZANIA WOULD GIVE TO IMPROVEMENT OF LAND CONNECTIONS THROUGH LAKE VICTORIA REGION BETWEEN TANZANIAN RAILWAY AND BOTH RWANDA AND BURUNDI.

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3. ALL OFFICIALS CONCERNED HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT ANY NEW ARRANGE-
MENT WITH TANZANIA AND OTHER WOULD-BE PARTNERS WOULD HAVE SOME
REPERCUSSIONS ON TRIPARTITE ZAIRE-RWANDA-BURUNDI ORGANIZATION
WHICH IS JUST GETTING UNDER WAY. CLEARLY, TANZANIANS ARE NOT
RPT NOT INVITING MOBUTU TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR NEW GROUPING,
ALLEGEDLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT BULK OF ZAIRE BELONGS TO ANOTHER
ATLANTIC ORIENTED REGION. WE HEAR THAT THESE CIRCUMSTANCES
PRODUCED A CERTAIN NON-COMMITTAL REACTION IN KIGALI, BUT BURUNDI
DID NOT RPT NOT FOLLOW SUIT, SINCE BOTH PRESIDENT BAGAZA AND MEDIA
STRESSED SHARED INTERESTS OF BURUNDI AND TANZANIA IN BOTH STATE
AND PARTY SECTORS. NEXT MEETING OF TRIPARTITE CHIEFS OF STATE
IS SET FOR BUJUMBURA FROM SEPTEMBER 8 TO 10, AND PRESUMABLY
MOBUTU WILL EXCHANGE SOME FIRM WORDS ABOUT ZAIRE'S TIES WITH
BURUNDI AND RWANDA.

4. TANZANIANS APPEAR TO BE VAGUE AT THIS JUNCTURE ON SPECIFIC
CONTENT OF NEW GROUPING, AND THEY HAVE LEFT DOOR OPEN FOR POSSIBLE
OTHER MEMBERS. JUMBE REPORTEDLY TOLD THE BURUNDIANS THAT TAN-
ZANIA IS PREPARING FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS WITH KENYA OVER
THEIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS IN AN EFFORT TO RESTORE MORE NORMAL RELA-
TIONSHIPS AND TRADE. MEANWHILE, NYERERE, HABYARIMANA, AND BAGAZA
ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET ABOUT AUGUST 24 AT RUSUMU FALLS (NEAR
SPOT WHERE THERE COUNTRIES JOIN) TO EXCHANGE RATIFICATIONS OF TREATY
ESTABLISHING KAGERA BASIN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, AND THIS COULD
BE OCCASION FOR TANZANIAN TOP LEVEL FOLLOW-UP TO JUMBE'S PRO-
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